

## Message Text

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P 301929Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, U-S.

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

1. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO (JUST RETURNED FROM CONSULTATION IN LISBON) CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER LATE AFTERNOON MAY 28 TO DELIVER LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES TO SECRETARY THANKING HIM FOR HIS MESSAGE AND TO CONVEY--UNDER INSTRUCTIONS--SOARES' STRONGLY EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR STRENGTHENED PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH U.S. COPY OF LETTER BEING POUCHED FOR POST INFO. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF CONVERSATION ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. U.S.-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS. THEMIDO SAID THAT PORTUGUESE AMBASSADORS TO ALL MAJOR POSTS ARE BEING REASSIGNED BECAUSE SOARES BELIEVES THAT A NEW GOP FOREIGN POLICY DEMANDS NEW FACES TO IMPLEMENT IT. THE SOLE EXCEPTION TO THIS MASSIVE SHAKE-UP IS THEMIDO WHO WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON AS A SIGNAL THAT THE GOP DESIRES STRENGTHENED RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ALTHOUGH THEMIDO DID NOT SAY IT EXPLICITLY- HE IMPLIED THAT THE GOP WAS CONCERNED THAT ITS NEW FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES (ARABS, SOVIETS, ETC.), PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT AND

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WHOLESALE REPOSTING OF AMBASSADORS MIGHT CONVEY AN

ERRONEOUS MESSAGE TO THE U.S. RE FUTURE U.S.-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEMIDO, ALONE AMONG THE GOP AMBASSADORS, WOULD REMAIN AT POST TO

REASSURE US THAT PORTUGAL DESIRED EVEN CLOSER RELATIONSHIP THAN EXISTED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THEMIDO SAID THAT SOARES PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS UPON CLOSE PORTUGUESE TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND VOLUNTEERED HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT SOARES WAS "VERY MODERATE" IN ALL OF HIS VIEWS.

3. STABLER REPLIED THAT WE WERE PLEASED THAT THEMIDO REMAINING IN WASHINGTON. HE EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR SOARES' DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND NATO AND EMPHASIZED OUR WISH THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS BE EVEN MORE CORDIAL IN COMING MONTHS. THE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAD CONVEYED THIS THEME TO THE GOP; SPINOLA'S AND SOARES' RESPONSE WERE AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING. STABLER TOLD THEMIDO "I WON'T CONCEAL FROM YOU THAT THE NEW SITUATION HAS MADE IT VERY MUCH EASIER FOR PORTUGAL'S FRIENDS." ON THE ISSUE OF GUINEA-BISSAU, STABLER EXPLAINED TO THEMIDO THAT THE U.S. HAD FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE PORTUGUESE POSITION IN THE PAST, EVEN THOUGH WE FOUND OURSELVES UNCOMFORTABLY ISOLATED IN SO DOING. HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR DECISION TO ABSTAIN IN THE UPU VOTE MAY 25 WAS REACHED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOP AND AFTER THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THEMIDO REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT

4. INTERNAL POLITICS. IN RESPONSE TO STABLER'S QUESTION AS TO HOW HE SAW THE POLITICAL SITUATION DEVELOPING IN PORTUGAL, THEMIDO REPLIED THAT THE COUNTRY HAS A "NEW LOOK." THEMIDO CHARACTERIZED CURRENT PROBLEMS OF STRIKES AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES AS NORMAL FOLLOWING A REVOLUTION. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE THE ONLY REALLY ORGANIZED POLITICAL PARTY AT THE MOMENT BUT EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THIS WILL CHANGE BEFORE ELECTIONS ARE HELD NEXT YEAR.

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5. STABLER ASKED HOW THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OPERATES VIS-A-VIS THE JUNTA. THEMIDO REPLIED THAT THE PG IMPLEMENTS THE PROGRAM DEFINED BY THE JUNTA AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT BUT THAT THE JUNTA CONCERNS ITSELF PRINCIPALLY WITH BROAD GUIDELINES FOR SOLVING THE MAJOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY, E.G. LABOR DIFFICULTIES AND THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. THEMIDO EXPLAINED WHY COMMUNISTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROVISIONAL

GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTEERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT CUNHAL HAS BEEN "RESPONSIBLE" THUS FAR IN THE STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE, AND SAID THAT ELECTIONS WILL CLEARLY SHOW WHERE PORTUGAL IS GOING POLITICALLY (WHICH THEMIDO SEEMED TO THINK WAS TOWARD THE CENTER).

6. SECRETARY-SOARES MEETING- THEMIDO SAID THAT SOARES WILL ATTEND THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OTTAWA AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING THE SECRETARY AT THAT TIME- THEMIDO SAID HE ALSO BELIEVES SOARES PLANS TO VISIT THE UN EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER OTTAWA AND WOULD, IN THEMIDO'S OPINION, WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON. STABLER REPLIED THAT WE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE SECRETARY'S FUTURE SCHEDULE BUT- IF SOARES DOES GO TO NEW YORK, WE HOPE THEMIDO WILL LET US KNOW WELL IN ADVANCE.

7. NEW DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS. THEMIDO SAID THAT CALVET DE MAGALHAES FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL BE POSTED TO THE VATICAN; FREITAS CRUZ WILL BE THE NEW PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO NATO, AND ANTONIO PATRICO IS GOING TO BOGOTA. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER RUI PATRICIO IS STILL IN LISBON AND WHILE THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON HIS MOVEMENTS, HE IS MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE THESE DAYS.

8. PORTUGUESE AFRICAN POLICY. THEMIDO SAID THAT HE ASSUMED U.S.-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WILL BE IMPROVED BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN GOP POLICY RE THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. THE SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IS GENUINE, HE SAID, AND IN THE COMING MONTHS "WE MAY NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING." THEMIDO WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON THIS LATTER POINT AND STABLER REITERATED OUR DESIRE THAT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE AFRICAN

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TERRITORIES TAKE PLACE AND IN A PEACEFUL FASHION. AS FOR U.S. SUPPORT, STABLER EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HEAR THE PORTUGUESE PROPOSALS BUT DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS. THEMIDO LIMITED HIS REPLY TO EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR OUR KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN. „APPARENTLY HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO MERELY RAISE THE SUBJECT IN AND EXPLORATORY WAY WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. BROWN

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